

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH



COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Within the last week, three (3) individual coyote attacks occurred in San Bernardino County which involved young children. The San Bernardino County Department of Public Health, Animal Care and Control Program, would like to remind the public of specific steps individuals can take to ensure the safety and well-being of their family and pets.

Coyote attacks will most often arise due to new coyote pups, warmer weather and more people enjoying the outdoors, the increase of food demands, and more food sources available during this season.

Coyotes are adaptable predators, found in most open habitats. They are tolerant of human activities, and adapt and adjust rapidly to changes in their environment. As a coyote pup grows older and the competition for food sources increases, it is likely that a coyote's natural aversion to people will change.

To avoid problems and to keep you and your family safe, people should observe the following **"Do and don't"** guidelines:

Do

- Do remove sources of water, especially in dry climates.
- Do feed your pets indoors or pick up uneaten food as soon as your pet is finished.
- Do trim ground level scrubs to reduce hiding places.
- Do pick up fallen fruit & cover compost piles.
- Do have adequate fencing and enclosures (to keep your pets in and wildlife out).
- Do install motion sensor lights
- Do vaccinate your dog and cat for rabies.

Don't

- Don't leave your children, cats, or small dogs outside unattended.
- Don't attempt to make a pet out of visiting wildlife.
- Don't feed or otherwise encourage a coyote's dependency on humans.
- Don't allow your pets to run loose.
- Don't attempt to tame a coyote.
- Don't put trash out long before the scheduled pickup.

MARK UFFER
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Residents are reminded that coyotes are predatory animals that may view small children and small animals as possible prey. Individuals should never provide a food source for wildlife and are reminded that it is a violation of San Bernardino County Code 32.131 to feed certain wildlife including coyotes.

The San Bernardino County Animal Care and Control Program will continue to work with local, state and federal officials to address this immediate concern.

For further information or assistance regarding predatory wildlife issues, please contact the San Bernardino County Animal Care and Control Program at 1-800-472-5609.

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